Worldviews  
Mr. Myers

Christian Ethics: The Problem of Evil

1. The dilemma of God and evil
   1. How could a good, all-powerful God allow evil and suffering?

“Either God wants to abolish evil and cannot; or he can, but does not want to…If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, but does not want to, he is wicked…If, as they say, God can abolish evil, and God really wants to do it, why is there evil in the world?”

* 1. People who experience great suffering may face questions about God’s existence or his character (e.g. Job, Elie Wiesel)

1. The biblical view of evil
   1. Evil is not a thing itself; it is not something God created and put in the world
   2. Evil is a perversion of that which is good; good things twisted and put to wrong use
   3. Free will (necessary for love) opens the possibility of evil
2. Christian affirmations
   1. God exists
   2. God is all-powerful
   3. God is good/loving
   4. Evil exists
3. Towards a solution
   1. The solution is not to deny any of these four affirmations
   2. Recognize that God is the basis for good and evil—without God there would be no such thing as good or evil (Ravi Zacharias story)
   3. Being all-powerful does not mean that God can do anything
   4. Having a free will with the possibility of evil and suffering is better than robots without the possibility of love
   5. God is not distant from human suffering, but rather became human and joined man in his suffering
   6. While God does not cause or desire evil or suffering, He does use suffering to accomplish His will
   7. God will ultimately put things right